

Ordinance Prevents Wells in City

-P. G. BRINEY.

THIS WEEK

Building—Confidence—Claude Roberts—The Banks

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

ONE beautiful news store building ready for occupancy, three more store buildings in process of erection, a new apartment court about to go up, more now building—and besides all that, the usual run of houses under construction. Certainly things are humming away in Torrance—humming in a manner that bespeaks the confidence of Torrance men in the Torrance of tomorrow and becomes pressing positive that this confidence, expressing itself in excellent new buildings is something more than a mere state of mind.

WERE new in Torrance, but we like the forward spirit of the city. Anybody can shout progress to the skies—but when men quietly and determinedly translate their confidence into terms of building investments—why then it doesn't take a prophet to foretell continued progress for the city in which those men live.

THE Rappaport building is a credit to the city. The new home of the Beacon Drug company may well be assigned a place as one of the finest in any city of this size in the state—and we might even dare to include a lot of larger cities.

The new quarters of the Rappaport department store mark another step forward by a firm that has long taken a progressive part of the commercial life of the city. Certainly Torrance merchants with their individual improvements are daily adding weight to the contention that it isn't necessary and certainly not as convenient to buy elsewhere.

SAM LEVY is building a two-story building on Cabrillo street. Specifications call for a large space for the Levy store, with apartments and offices above.

Across the street outside capital is building three stores. They are not yet rented, but the builder is not worrying about his ability to fill them with worthy tenants.

THE people of Torrance have a part in all this change of the downtown skyline. When merchants are keeping pace with the growth of the city, when capital is being expended to make the business district measure up to every standard to the aspirations of Torrance, the people can co-operate by continuing their practice of buying in Torrance.

THE more people we meet the more we cherish the acquaintance of Claude P. Roberts. For everyone has something good to say of the former owner of this paper—and they praise him as much as he had his back as they do to his face.

There is something pleasant in stepping into the harness out of which a good man has just stepped. It is an inspiration. It gives the new man something to aim at. A mediocre worker can improve on the accomplishment of a sloven. It takes a mighty good man to fill the shoes of a man like Roberts.

BEHIND all the activities of any city sit the bankers. Business is done almost entirely on the word of men to pay. Very little cash changes hands in the world of trade and industry. Most everything is a promise. A check is a promise on paper. The banks make possible this exchange of promises. More than that they provide the medium through which capital is obtained for necessary expansion. And they loan money almost as much on the character of the man who asks for the loan as they do on the collateral he deposits as security.

PARTNERSHIPS, corporations, individuals would have a sorry time of it without the banks.

Think of how we'd get along without them whenever you catch yourself saying that bankers are unreasonable.

And then remember that more than any other business in this intricate commercial world of ours the banks are governed in all of their operations by laws which are beyond their control.

If bankers said "Yes" every time they were asked for a loan there would be many bankers in jail and many depositors groaning under losses.

Banks in reality are the brake of fast-moving business. As such they frequently have to clamp down. When they do, they're really helping business instead of hurting it.

Junior-Senior Feast Set for Friday Night

The annual Junior-Senior banquet of high school students will be held Friday night at the high school. The Parent-Teachers' association will serve dinner.

Torrance Herald



NINTH YEAR

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Zoning Law Will Stop Drill at City Limits, Is Opinion

City Attorney Says No Special Ordinance Needed to Protect

That the present city zoning ordinance will absolutely prevent the erection of derricks for the drilling of oil wells in the residence and business districts of Torrance and that no additional ordinance is needed to protect the city against the encroachment of oil wells, is the official opinion of City Attorney P. G. Briney.

Mr. Briney went on record to that effect at Tuesday night's meeting of the board of trustees, when the request of the Chamber of Commerce for a protecting ordinance was presented again.

Mr. Briney declared that the zoning ordinance which specifically sets forth the class of structures and buildings which may be erected in the residence district automatically enjoins oil operators from drilling wells in the residence district and part of the industrial district.

He based his legal opinion on that part of Ordinance No. 51, Section 1 which specifies that in Districts of Class No. 11, designated as residence districts, "no building, structure or premises shall be erected, altered or maintained... which is designed, intended or used for any purpose other than a single family dwelling, flats, tenements, boarding house, lodging house, club, fraternity dwelling, apartment house or hotel without stores."

It has been repeatedly pointed out that the possibility of encroachment by oil wells on the Torrance tract has served to decide many investors against putting money into Torrance and that building of houses has been curtailed as a result. Both the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trustees have given careful consideration to the question. Now that the city attorney has gone on record to the effect that oil drilling in the city is legally prevented by the zoning ordinance, business men are hoping that many more investors will be attracted to the city.

Dominguez Declaration
Drilling for oil inside the city limits is prohibited by the original declaration of the Dominguez Land company, but this expires on Jan. 1, 1925. According to Mr. Briney the zoning ordinance protects the city after that date.

It has been reported that oil interests have been seeking to secure oil drilling rights within the limits of the city, subject, of course, to the terms of the Dominguez declaration. It has even been rumored that some leases have already been signed, subject to that declaration.

If City Attorney Briney's legal opinion is correct, and should be upheld by the courts, any such leases would be worthless.

The trustees Tuesday night requested that the widest publicity be given to Mr. Briney's opinion, in order that there be no misunderstanding concerning the protection of Torrance against the incursion of oil wells inside the city.

M. R. Osborne Is Made Director of Local C. of C.

M. R. Osborne, president and general manager of the Dominguez Land company, is now a director of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. He was unanimously appointed by the board of directors Tuesday to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Benjamin Harwood.

KEEP SPACE AT STATION

The Chamber of Commerce directors voted this week to retain the display space in the Torrance station of the Pacific Electric company. It is believed that the space may be used for an exhibit.

SHOVEL TURNS SOIL FOR NEW SCHOOL GROUP

Students Officiate at Ceremony to Start "Their" Building

Students Tuesday afternoon broke ground for the new high school. Representing the student body as president Albert Isenstein, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Isenstein, turned the first shovel of soil.

Thus the project which will mean so much to Torrance students, started by the students themselves.

The ceremony was simple and without frills. Principal I. W. Barnett addressed the students who assembled outside at 1 o'clock. He laid emphasis on the fact that the new school building is going to be their school and that it is they who will benefit most from it.

Mr. Barnett paid a high tribute to the co-operation which the Chamber of Commerce has given in securing the new buildings for Torrance. Without the aid of the chamber, according to the principal, the attempt to secure the buildings probably would have failed.

H. F. Gadeky, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, was present and at the request of Mr. Barnett responded with a suitable address.

Present Medal
Before the students dispersed a bronze medal for proficiency in typewriting was awarded to Clara Totten. The medal was donated by the Underwood Typewriter company.

In presenting the medal Principal Barnett said it was awarded on the occasion of breaking ground for the new auditorium for the reason that there is no auditorium at present in which to award medals.

With the breaking of ground Tuesday by the students and the arrival of a grading gang this week, assurance is given that half day sessions in Torrance schools will be discontinued soon after the opening of the fall term in September.

Contractors promise that the shop building will be ready for occupancy when school opens on Sept. 10. The laboratories, vocational training, domestic science and commercial art departments will be located in the shop building which will stand at the rear of the main structure.

To Separate Grades

With the opening of the fall term the segregation of elementary and high school grades will be practically complete. Two elementary grades may be left in the high school building for a time after Sept. 10, but the rest will be housed in the six new bungalow schools which will be built this summer on the elementary property. Mr. Barnett this week received a letter from W. A. Sheldon, secretary of the board of education, stating that the board on June 14 authorized construction of these bungalows.

On Tuesday G. W. Wood of the school architectural department arrived in Torrance to ascertain the exact location of the bungalow schools, so that the board can advertise for bids without delay.

The students who will attend classes in the bungalows will be those who are now attending in rooms which will be remodeled this summer.

Auto Club May Soon Put Man in Torrance

That the Automobile Club of Southern California may send a permanent representative to Torrance before long, was the statement made to the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday by Secretary H. F. Gadeky.

Correction

In order to correct a false impression that seems to have gained some circulation, the new owners of this paper deem it only fair to our readers and to Claude P. Roberts to assure this community that we have no connection whatsoever with any other newspaper. We are here to become a part of this community. We have invested money here and intend to exert every effort toward the welfare and progress of all. The assertion that there is a clandestine agreement between us and any other newspaper in Redondo, San Pedro, Los Angeles or anywhere else is absolutely false. Give us a little time among you and you will soon understand that we are standing alone for Torrance without affiliations with any other newspaper.

W. HAROLD KINGSLEY.
GROVER C. WHYTE.

Trustees Increase Police Salaries to \$150 a Month

Torrance policemen received a salary increase of \$15 a month at the hands of the board of trustees Tuesday night. The increase was made effective as of June 1. In presenting a resolution calling for the increase Trustee Proctor declared that the difficulty of securing men for the force necessitated the increase. Police will now receive \$150 a month instead of \$135. The increase affects the pay of the whole department except the chief.

Property Holders Debate on Paving Amapola St. Area

Shall Amapola street and intersecting thoroughfares be improved with four-inch asphaltic-concrete pavement or with crushed stone and oil?

To decide that question property holders of the district affected will meet this week in an endeavor to reach a unanimous conclusion.

The matter came up for discussion at the meeting of the board of trustees Tuesday night when a petition was presented for Willite paving on the streets. A previous petition calling for crushed stone and oil had been presented. Many property holders were present, and there were advocates of both kinds of paving.

Employees of the Pacific Electric who live in the district on property purchased from the company declared that the company, at the time of the sale of the property promised that the P. E. would pay for improving the streets. It was brought out that the P. E. has recently intimated, though not promised, to do so.

Before any official action is taken, employees of the P. E. will meet and confer with company officials in an effort to ascertain how far the company will go. The belief was expressed that the company will pay for crushed stone and oil paving and that property owners may then pay the difference.

City Engineer Jesup favored the better pavement and pointed out that the difference between asphaltic concrete and crushed stone and oil will be between 5 or 6 cents a square foot.

The question will come up next Wednesday night at a meeting of the trustees, at which time it is expected that some definite program will be presented by property holders.

C. of C. Gets 10 New Members This Week

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce has decided not to move the offices of the organization from the city hall.

This action was taken at Tuesday's meeting and followed receipt of a letter to the board from the city trustees in which the latter declared that the chamber might continue to occupy its present quarters without rent. The board received the letter and instructed the secretary to write a letter thanking the trustees. The subject of a change of location was then unanimously laid on the table.

Three More Wells Send Oil to Tanks In Torrance Field

Week Sees Trio of Producers Brought in; All on Pump

Three pumps were added to the production list on the west side of the field during the past week. The Petroleum Midway brought in Gish No. 1, adjacent to the Redondo Tool plant Monday afternoon, at 3405 feet with an initial production of about 250 barrels. The other wells were brought in by the Amalgamated Oil company and the Fullerton Oil company. The Amalgamated's well, Watson No. 2, started out at about 150 barrels, and it was estimated that the Fullerton well, Lenz No. 1, made an initial production of the same amount. All three wells are on the pump.

Is Shallow Field

The Gish well is one of the shallowest wells on the west side of the field and is reported to have a good gas pressure with about 500 feet of oil sand to produce from. When it was first swabbed out it shot over the crown block, which makes it look as though it may flow when it gets properly cleaned out.

The Lenz well was originally put down to about 3900 feet, but due to water trouble was plugged back to about 2900 feet and redrilled to 3600 feet. Watson No. 2 was completed between 3500 and 3600 feet.

Shell Test Well

The Shell Oil company's deep test well, Redondo No. 1, which offsets the Amalgamated's Watson No. 1 and No. 2 is down 4800 feet, but the showings are reported to be unfavorable. However, it is believed that the Shell will carry out its program of drilling the well to 5000 feet.

Del Amo No. 1, the discovery well on the Cranslor Canfield Midway lease, showed that it had a lot of pep left last Friday, when, after flowing steadily for a year without being cleaned out, it shot a stream of oil over the crown block. Because of the reported low production of the wells on the west side of the field, that section has been very much underestimated by the public as an oil producing territory, but the performance of the Del Amo No. 1 indicates that it can be counted on for good production for a long time. The fact that George P. Getty, in this same locality, picked up a sand at 3900 feet, which is producing 450 barrels a day, shows that the oil companies have not yet gotten all the available production.

Predict Big Flow

With the Gilmore Petroleum company preparing to run in the oil string in its well on Dr. Leake's lease on Carson street, the oil men believe they are about to see the first 1500-barrel well of the field brought in. The well is down about 3700 feet, the last 500 feet of which was in excellent oil sand. Just to the west of the Gilmore well, the Hub crew is completing the fishing job on Smith No. 1 and expect drilling to be resumed by the end of the week. This well will be put down to 3800 feet, if not deeper.

Averaging better than 100 feet a day, the crew on the Superior Oil company's Shedd No. 1, at Carson and Cedar streets, Thursday had put the well down to 2100 feet in less than three weeks. Barring mishap this well will be in the oil sand by the first of July. Making almost as good time, the crew on the Hub's Smith No. 2, offsetting the Standard's Community No. 3, yesterday had drilled the well past the 1800-foot mark.

Set Water String

The crew on the Midway Northern well at Cedar avenue and the old Long Beach-Redondo boulevard is also in the fast drilling class and has already put the well down to 3070 feet, and Tuesday set the water string after hitting a fine showing of oil and gas. The petroleum expert claim that the logs of the Midway Northern well indicate that the structure is running off to the southeast and that the crest will lie between the Long Beach-Redondo boulevard and Carson street. The Chanslor Canfield Midway's Torrance No. 8, offsetting the Midway Northern well is down about 2500 feet. Torrance No. 8 was spudded in ahead of the M. N. well.

Crews were still at work yesterday installing machinery in the Sentinel Oil company's well at Cedar and Carson, in Getty's Neil No. 1, the Chanslor Canfield Midway's Torrance No. 10 and 11, and the Standard's Torrance Community No. 4. It was believed last Friday that these wells would be spudded in by the end of this week, but it looks now as though it would be several days before all get underway.

Down 1200 Feet

The Trimble & Rhea well on the two-block lease in Block 55, yesterday was down 1200 feet, and the Superior Oil company's Osburn No. 1, in Block 11, 4070 Tract, spudded in Sunday, was down about 400 feet. This is the first well to be spudded in in the 4070 Tract. The second Superior Oil well in the 4070 Tract, in Block 6, is now being rigged up for drilling.

Lumber has been put on the ground and the sump hole excavated for the Standard's first well on the 137-acre lease to the southeast of Torrance. This well is almost due east of the Midway Northern's well and is a mile and a quarter directly south of the Peterson-Barker well.

Another fishing job temporarily held up progress in the Peterson-Barker well at 3400 feet. The bit and several hundred feet of drill pipe were dropped in the hole Sunday just as the drill was passing out of the hard brown shale and into a soft formation carrying a fair showing of oil.

GLASS PLANT TO CONSTRUCT NEW FACTORY

Will Increase Capital Stock to Million and Build Here

Construction of a new plant for the manufacture of wire glass is included in the reorganization plans of The Torrance Glass company, according to an announcement made to The Herald this week. The plant will be built to the south of the present factories.

Publication of the details of the company's proposed reorganization was premature, according to company officials. The officers of the company announce that it is their intention to increase the concern's capitalization from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000, but declare that the details have not yet been perfected.

Los Angeles papers published a statement that the Torrance Window Glass company had been taken over by the Western Sheet Glass company. Officials of the company do not deny this, but assert that nothing official can be made public pending negotiations now underway.

But the plans for reorganization do include a new plant for Torrance and the substitution of machinery for hand labor in the sheet glass factory.

Statements that the company would make plate glass were premature. After the reorganization it may be decided to do so, but the present officers of the company are in no position to foretell what any new directors and officers may decide to do.

It is certain that the Fourcault process, by which glass is drawn from the furnace in sheets 54 inches wide and 26 feet long, will probably prevail after the reorganization.

No machinery will be installed in the local plant until after the reorganization, it is announced. Local business men profess to see in the reorganization and the contemplated changes a more permanently busy and less seasonal industry for Torrance.